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Philad. Edition, Thursday, March 13, 1919

**USING MODERN METHODS**  
 NO ONE need be surprised that the women teachers are organizing a labor union.

They have been asking for a decent wage for many years, and have been asking in vain. They have been told that there was no money for them. The political officeholders with a "pull"—and a vote—have had their pay increased. But the women have been passed by.

Mechanics who form unions secure an increase in their pay to help when living costs go up.

Now, when the teachers get their union formed and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor we shall see what we shall see.

A highly organized and active group of citizens has secured the adoption of a constitutional amendment this winter. He would be rash, indeed, who should say that a highly organized body of women cannot get whatever it asks for.

**BEYOND THE MAYORALTY**  
 W. FREELAND KENDRICK, merely mentioned by Senator Vare as being of mayoralty "type," confesses to little concern about that characterization. He has an office of very far-flung authority to fill, if, as he admittedly expects, he is elected imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine for North America in June.

"Cabineted, cribbed, confined, bound into saucy doubts and fears," the post of Mayor of Philadelphia may be embarrassingly so, as Rudolph Blankenburg was unfortunately forced to realize. Compared with all the northern half of this continent, the one hundred or so square miles of civic domain here is small.

Mr. Kendrick is obviously thinking in halves of hemispheres, and not municipally. Perhaps it is breadth of view which appealed to Mr. Vare when he specified his "type," but it is more likely that he momentarily forgot the comprehensive distinction which the "potential" candidate awaits.

**A DRY WORLD**  
 THE resolution committing the local Methodist Episcopal Conference to support of the movement to banish alcohol from the whole world will doubtless be adopted.

This church has been one of the most consistent advocates of total abstinence for many years. There was a time when it condemned the use of tobacco in any form and a Methodist minister who used it was subjected to discipline. We believe that the bars have been let down somewhat for the relief of those who find smoking a relief to tired nerves, but alcoholic drinks are still condemned.

The success of the prohibition movement in the United States most naturally encourages all prohibitionists to hope that it can be made equally successful in every other country. The difficulties in the way do not discourage them.

**WE ARE READY TO LISTEN**  
 THE best thing that can happen is for the debate on the league of nations, begun in the Senate, to continue before larger audiences in other places.

Following the announcement that Senator Lodge has consented to discuss the subject in public with President Lowell, of Harvard, comes the report that Senators Knox and Hitchcock have agreed to a joint debate in Newark.

We hope that this is only the beginning of a series of similar discussions. The people are seeking information. If the draft of the covenant is defective, they want to know how it can be improved. They will listen with open minds to its critics.

But if any man is opposed to the whole league idea and seeks to prevent its realization by finding fault with the proposition now before the Peace Conference, the people will be quick to discover the animus of the criticism.

It is morally certain that both Senators Knox and Lodge will profess in their speeches outside of the Senate the hope that a workable league can be formed.

**CABLES TO NOWHERE**  
 WITH respect to those transatlantic cables which Britannia coiled comfortably about herself during the war, this Sam is in a position somewhat similar to that of Mark Twain's "sad-eyed stranger," who collected echoes. A most interesting conversation with a neighboring property owner took away the cliff on his side.

America today has an interest in the western terminus of the cable formerly running to the Azores and thence to Germany. But as a war measure the British cut that line and made a new end to it in Halifax. The wires which we control lead hopelessly to the mid-Atlantic, and are about as much use to us as his one precipice was to the echo specialist. Similar tactics were pursued with the cable between Liberia and Brazil, both of which countries were neutral when the British incision was made. That cable, now tied up with a new terminus, was given to the French Government.

It is an ancient trick to claim that a status created by an exigency of war should be recognized in peace, but to the present British contentions it is doubtful if America will agree. Certainly some adjustment of a condition whereby this country controls a cable leading nowhere should be made if right is to prevail over flagrant aggression in the new era.

**DESTINY STILL AIDING THE PRESIDENT IN PARIS**  
 Time is Swiftly Proving the Validity of His Plans and the Need for a League of Nations

WHEN President Wilson lands in France today he will go with new endowments of strength to the task at Paris. The forces of destiny are still upon his side.

The Reeds and the Shermans are but thin voices in the present clamor. The really powerful enemies of the President and the league of nations are behind the scenes in Europe. They are the hidden groups who hold that their own peculiar interests are above those of the state—the internationalized banking cliques, the adventurers in empire, the munition makers and the exploiters of misery. These are the powers which the Paris Conference is trying to disarm, and they have had a sobering interval since Mr. Wilson sailed for America.

The ground has rocked under their feet and the skies have been filled with omens to prove that a decent and permanent peace is imperative. They have realized that it is the faith of the peoples of Europe in the United States and in its chief representative that actually is holding their civilization together, and they are in a mood to listen to reason.

If the President returns, as he probably will, with a league of nations plan in which the Monroe Doctrine is explicitly as well as tacitly sustained it will not be because of the Senate criticism, but because some of the old world statesmen have had time to look about them and to consider the consequences of a failure at Paris.

From the first Mr. Wilson has insisted merely on a peace drawn in the interest of the people rather than in the interest of special groups and for that he has been called dangerous, and even pro-German. He has realized what every rational man must perceive now, that out of the present turmoil in Europe there can come only anarchy or a new tyrant nation if the new international agreement is not finally eliminated the possibility of wars of conquest.

It is reasonable to assume that the President has proceeded on the assumption that neither alternative would be safe for America. Yet there are Senators in the United States who still insist that they do not know what he is driving at.

But we are learning. It is easy to recall the wild terrors that were shed in newspaper editorials, the hands that were wrung in print, the cries of outrage and horror that arose among editors and politicians who vowed that the world was coming to an end when Mr. Wilson first sailed for the Peace Conference. That sort of thing is in the past. It is interesting to observe that the storm of criticism from the tory side in every European country has abated and even the reactionaries now admit the wisdom of the league-of-nations plan. Are they too late, as they have always been? Have they plotted and quibbled too long? Is peace of any sort to be impossible for years in the old world?

The unhappy soil of Europe has always bred tyrants of one sort or another. The tyrants who menace the continental countries now are the half-mad leaders of Bolshevism. Like those who preceded them, they are exploiting the ignorance and the unhappiness of oppressed peoples. The fools and scoundrels in older governments are, in the final analysis, to be blamed for this new affliction, since their crimes and their errors have made the foundation upon which the lunatics like Trotsky can rear structures of their fantastic pretension. If there had been no war there would have been no Bolshevism.

If the diplomatists at Paris could have made it plain at the beginning of their sessions that a fixed peace was to be established in the world, the hysteria that is devastating parts of Europe would be dying out now instead of spreading and gathering force.

The simple fact of the matter, already obvious to any one who has seen Europe at close quarters since the war ended, is that the masses in the different countries are heartily and properly sick of hating one another. They themselves are attempting a sort of reconciliation, which their representatives at Paris have worked overtime to prevent. Yet the American policy of pacification in Russia and a fair deal for the German people was called hereby by the old-fashioned statesmen when the sessions of the Paris conference were begun.

The wisdom and the necessity for some such policy is acknowledged now everywhere. On the whole, Mr. Wilson's sojourn in Europe has been vastly beneficial. He showed the European diplomatists a way out of the appalling blind alley into which they had been driven.

**SONGS AND THE LAW**  
 THE quality of the proposed "state song" which the Legislature has turned down does not seem to have been high, but even apart from literary or musical considerations, there was wisdom in the lawmakers' decision. Manufactured sentiment makes a distressing exhibit. Patriotic songs self-consciously wrought are usually sorry products.

Rouget de l'Isle was unaware that he was creating the most famous hymn of liberty when he penned the "Marseillaise" nor did Francis Scott Key foresee a legislative enactment when he composed the "Star Spangled Banner" immediately after the British repulse at Fort Mifflin. When these songs were officially adopted by the French and American Governments, respectively, the people had accepted them and the legal acts of recognition were mere formalities.

"Dixie" was a minstrel ditty of the "Jim Crow" days and Belgium's fervent "La Brabanconne" also originated unpretentiously in a theatre. For all its royal sanction, Spain's "Marcha Real," a stiff and stodgy affair, enjoys no real standing as a national anthem. The air which all Spaniards know best and feel to be typical of their land is Yradier's colorful and rhythmic "La Paloma" and the remainder of the world concurs with their indorsement.

If any song spontaneously and popularly Pennsylvanian were discoverable in this commonwealth it would be entirely fitting for the Legislature to authorize its official adoption. But no such air and text exist. Years ago, perhaps, "The Blue Juniata" might have qualified. Today, however, many Pennsylvanians have no idea how it goes.

Harrisburg has done well to repudiate machine-made sentiment just as it has displayed restraint in not establishing, as so many American commonwealths have done, a state flower. If one were inevitably characteristic as, for instance, the thistle of Scotland or the Indian paintbrush of Wyoming, the public would realize that without a fiat, State or national songs or emblems do not derive their vitality from the statute books.

**RESTORING THE GEM TO THE OCEAN**  
 FIVE years ago traveling Americans of even the most assertive proclivities were inclined to feel chastened and embarrassed in foreign harbors. Flags of seaboard nations, big and little, took the breeze, but ships bearing the Stars and Stripes were conspicuously lacking. An occasional "windjammer" or a whaler, most of the "American" crew of which would converse in "Portugee," were about the only evidences of the maritime dignity of the United States visible in the busy ports of, say, Santos, Colombo or Singapore. "Columbia, the gem of the ocean," was a phrase of the most florid falsity.

The taint of hyperbole has been eradicated. The broadside of statistics just disclosed by the United States shipping board colors the patriotic declaration with the convincing hue of fact. These figures are not "dry," but are indicative of a romantic chapter of progress that has few parallels in history. They proclaim the prodigious accomplishment whereby 46 per cent of all shipping now plying between our own and foreign shores is of American registry.

Representatives of Columbia's wondrous commerce fleet, comprising one-fifth of the total sea-going tonnage of the world, may be found today in Auckland or in Cape Town, in Bombay or in Valparaiso.

When the army and navy return to their original owners the vessels they are now operating the American commercial fleet will have a total tonnage of nearly four million. Not the least of the miracles of the war is the ubiquitous merchant marine under the Stars and Stripes. Our commerce-carrying emprise, destroyed by the Civil War, has been restored as a result of necessities arising in the greatest of all conflicts.

When our citizens begin roving again ships of the most romantic symbols of power will tighten the home ties. Uneasy apologies will be out of order, providing, of course, that the nation realizes its responsibilities with a peace shipping program which will render permanent our thrills of pride.

**THE GOWNSMAN**  
 Precedent

A PRECEDENT is a model, an example, a priority, a something that has gone before, to which distance and a want of discernment may give a species of enchantment. A precedent is the correct thing, the proper wrinkle, the thing that has always been done or else something which is not done and therefore can never be done. Precedent is highly respectable—like old people—for what they are supposed to have been; like those admirable links in the chains of pedgrees, memorable only as the sons of some bodies carrying down illustrious blood to nobodies. Precedent is a blaze on a forest trail which declares that there is only one way up the mountain; or a signpost on the road which may get overturned and point the wrong way. There is something safe, stable, adamant about a precedent. It is not lightly to be shaken, much less set aside. Dynamite or TNT must be resorted to to move it, but rock quarried and shattered in the process; for precedent, in its concrete refuge and empacements, predates solidity, stolidity, changelessness, permanence and the rigidity of death.

THE time-honored thing to do with a precedent is to follow it; this is much the easiest way. In days of intellectual twilight, with the clouds of doubt over us and the fogs of cowardice drifting in, we may grope our way from the glimmering lamp-post of one precedent to the glimmering lamp-post of the next, and so move on. This is perhaps not precisely what Tennyson meant when he described freedom as slowly broadening down from precedent to precedent, though no one could question the freedom, at least, of such a broadening process from anything smacking of levity or haste. The Gownsmen, years ago, was wandering on a narrow wicket lane, in the Wordsworthian country, with hedges on either side and no crosspath in sight; and a flock of sheep came toward him, driven the opposite way to his. He paused and stepped to the hedge so as not to impede their way. But the bell-wether, beholding the unprecedented sight of a lanky American trudging in full view of Skiddaw, became terror-stricken, bolted for the hedge, executed a creditable leap over it and was immediately followed by the entire flock. Except for the bell-wether, that flock was following precedent; in the bell-wether it was only panic. And the shepherd, although what he said seemed natural and uttered under the stimulus of powerful emotion, can hardly be said to have used language which was truly Wordsworthian.

PRECEDENT is, after all, merely habit, and there are bad habits as well as good habits. There are, moreover, habits suited to one time of life, which, adhered to, become absurd. So there are precedents which seem to guide us for a time, which become outworn and superseded as the times change and we in them. There was a time when the formation of the Republican party was an unprecedented impertinence, and there was a happy golden age before the flood when there were no Democrats. The Monroe Doctrine has always been so unprecedented that no Congress has ever yet been willing formally to approve it, although the ancient Greeks fought and whipped Persia on the original Monroe Doctrine that only Greek should quarrel with Greek in Europe and Asia Minor. If we will but look at it rightly there is nothing unprecedented under the sun or, on the other hand, any precedent which change and progress may not render obsolete and baneful.

AMERICAN procedure in government has been criticized, not without some justice, on the score that the education of our politicians—where they possess education—is so largely legal in its bias. The Gownsmen is not apprised of the percentage of Senators and Representatives in Congress who are members of the bar, but he will venture a surmise that it is exceedingly high. Now the lawyer by his training is a man of precedent, a follower of authority, a student of the past. No institution of man can compare with the common law in its fulfillment of Tennyson's dictum cited above, for no institution has so broadened down from precedent to precedent; perhaps it might be added, nor any so slowly, for who knows not the proverbial delays of the law? The Gownsmen holds no brief against lawyers or the law; on the whole, much can be said in favor of this one stronghold of leisure and of leisurely procedure in the midst of the whirl and haste of the time. But when the majority of those who make our laws are accustomed to think and act mainly in the terms of precedent we must not expect from them any unusual receptivity to new ideas, any great cordiality to anything in the nature of ideas or toward things as yet to be tried in the mechanism of our government. The Senate is not the dynamo. It is unreasonable to expect motive power of an instrument constructed essentially to put on the brakes. The Senate performs its function, as a rule, remarkably well, though it is somewhat provoking to have the brakes jammed on when the nation wants to move forward.

APPROPOS of all this, we cannot but wonder whether some of the prejudice which our Chief Executive has encountered in his own country may not be referable to just this. As a historian and a student of polity rather than of politics, Mr. Wilson's training has been less directed toward ascertaining precedent than toward the discovery of principle. And he is remarkable that principle is quite as practical as precedent and, when once discovered and applied, infinitely above any mere march in the footsteps of the past. For the application of principle implies leadership, whilst any one can successfully play the time-honored game of follow my leader. In short, there are three things to do with a precedent: you may follow it, break with it or lay a new precedent—a surer, a truer, a saner guide for the future. To follow a precedent merely because it is a precedent is to remain stationary—a selfish laggard impeding the march of time. To break with a rule applicable to the past but inapplicable today is to exercise the judicial functions of a discriminating mind. While to make new precedents to guide those to come is to realize that leadership which all the world expects of America. It must not be said that we, the youngest of the children of Abel, could have been content with a negative answer to Cain's rhetorical question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

**PRUNES AND PRISMS**  
 If the League of Nations Were a Motorcar (With apologies to the Motor Show)

THIS sweetly running family vehicle can be driven by the most inexperienced in safety and comfort, and yet can be instantly transformed into a thing of roaring power and incarnate speed that is master of the road.

UNDER any conditions of strain and stress our new model runs with reliable certainty. All the trouble-making parts found in less efficient machines have been eliminated.

THIS superb creation, upholstered luxuriously by masters of the resilient art of padding, gives supreme satisfaction on all the fourteen points of excellence. Service, economy, mileage, freedom from friction and vibration of parts, all characteristics of this supervehicle, insure swift and birdlike flight over the roughest obstacle.

ELUQUENTLY suited to persons of discerning taste, because composed of all the standard units not put together but built, assembled, co-ordinated into an organic loveliness of infallible machinery. Let us give you a demonstration. The best test of excellence is the violence of rival criticism.

Every time a foreign post comes to Philadelphia our intellectuals make haste to embrace him and assure him how much his message of deathless beauty has meant to their parched bosoms.

And yet we have a poet just around the corner, Mr. James Edward Richardson, who has written some of the finest poetry ever produced in this city. His book, "The Forest Altar," takes honorable rank among the most notable volumes of recent verse in our language. Get wise to what Philadelphia is doing!

We are one of those who never can remember what are technically known as "good stories." Each time we hear one, knowing that we have forgotten all the others we have ever heard, we vow that we will remember this one, anyway, and spring it in our family circle to fasten it in our memory. Yesterday Doc Hostetter told us a good one about a mongoose, but it put out of our head two excellent yarns that Tom Daly and Bill Sykes had sprung when we took lunch with those raconteurs the other day.

Jim Whittall is back from England and has been telling us about the 450-year-old cottage he has bought down in Sussex. It looks to us like a very delightful place to live, far from the madding jazz. Jim is busy translating some stories from the French of Gerard de Nerval. We are going to suggest that he translate some of this department into English.

The captain of the Annam, who "hove to" while the President's ship went by, will be dismayed to learn, if he hears any of Senator Borah's speeches, that by so doing he undoubtedly impaired his sovereignty.

George Creel has "returned to private life." We hope private life has been consulted about this.

In any case, private life has no right to hide George under a bushel. Now he belongs to the sages.

Dead Mottoes

"Few pass through life without being seen—once or oftener—at a disadvantage."  
 —Thaddeus, in Pinero's comedy, "The Thunderbolt"

Recalling some of the plans we have

**THE ORCHESTRA**  
 THEY gather—men of differing lands and kinds—  
 Comrades, yet separate, alone intent  
 Each on the keynote of his instrument,  
 Till, 'mid the discords, each the true note finds.  
 Straightaway, attuned as one, their several minds  
 To one harmonious purpose jointly bent,  
 Their every tone is with its fellows bent,  
 And part to part melodiously binds.

Even so, amid the clash of clamorous needs,  
 God's truth attains athwart all wrangling creeds.  
 Even so, that wars forevermore may cease,  
 Building the future on a ruined past,  
 Mankind, united, shall evoke at last  
 The World's immortal Symphony of Peace.  
 —Grace Dennis Litchfield, in the New York Times.

Congress seems to be eagerly keyed up for the day when it can sing "I hear you calling me."

Mr. Wilson need have no fears of the mud in West. He has just come from Washington.

Now if they had only tried to persuade the legislature to adopt "Hail! Hail! The Gang's All Here," as the Philadelphia anthem the result might have been different.

Are you one of the pessimists who has not been to the motor show yet? By pessimist we mean a man who has no hope of owning a motorcar.

Despite the approach of the vernal equinox, the fall season in Germany shows no signs of abatement. Certain wise men about a green balze table daily find new ways to prevent anything like a spring.

**What Do You Know?**  
 QUIZ

- Who was Vice President in Taft's administration?
- What lake is the source of the Mississippi River?
- What was the full name of Horace, the Latin poet?
- What American state has "Here we rest" as its motto?
- How was William Frederick Cody?
- How many times was Eugene V. Debs the Socialist nominee for President?
- What is the meaning of the French phrase "Entre nous"?
- What is a mongoose?
- After what king of France was Louisiana named?
- What is a microphone?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- Catherine Breshnevskaya is called the "Grandmother of the Russian Revolution."
- A lute is a stringed instrument somewhat resembling a guitar.
- Magenta, a brilliant crimson aniline dye, was discovered soon after the battle of Magenta, fought in Italy in 1859, and hence named in honor of that French victory.
- Bible means book, from the Greek word "biblos."
- Five English monarchs, Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth, belonged to the House of Tudor.
- Two barrels equal one hoghead.
- The Scotch word "muckle" means much, great, a large amount.
- Norman Hapgood, a well-known American editor, has been appointed United States Minister to Denmark.
- "Ben trovato" means well invented, characteristic, if not true. The literal meaning of the Italian phrase is "well found."
- Burlington, with a population of 21,908, is the largest city in Vermont.

**THE MOST POPULAR VERSION OF "THE WATCH ON THE RHINE"**



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